

## **MONTANA WOLF PROGRAM - WEEKLY REPORT**

**TO:** Interested Parties  
**FROM:** Ken McDonald, Wildlife Bureau Chief  
**SUBJECT:** Wolf Program Activities and Related Information  
**WEEK OF:** August 6-12, 2011

Contributors to the Montana Wolf Weekly are Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), Universities, USDA Wildlife Services (WS), the National Park Service (NPS; Glacier NP; Yellowstone National Park will be reported in the Wyoming Wolf Weekly), US Forest Service, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and the Blackfeet Nation.

Highlighted activities relate to: monitoring, wolf-livestock interactions, outreach and education, research, law enforcement, and other miscellaneous topics of public interest. The Weekly Report will be available each Monday, covering the previous week. It and other wolf program information (including the 2009 annual report) can be found on the FWP website.

### **WOLF MONITORING ACTIVITIES:**

8/10: Nelson set traps on private land in the Trail Creek area of Paradise Valley to deploy a radio collar in the Hogback pack. Two different pups were captured on 8/12 and 8/13 and released because they were too small to collar. Trapping efforts are ongoing in this area.

8/9: A 47 lb male pup was captured and collared from the Sula pack at the south end of the Bitterroot Valley. On 8/10 another male pup was captured but was too small to collar. A big thanks to Tyler Parks who volunteered and was a significant help on this trapline from 8/2-8/10. Tyler also helped with scouting in the West Fork. Thanks also to UM elk project tech John Carron, USFS biologists Andrea Shortsleeve and Britney Johnson (USFS), and volunteers Brenden Oates and Harry Temp who assisted with scouting and trapping.

8/11: Smucker and Rowan trapped and collared a 2-3 yr old male wolf in the Bitterroot. Traps were pulled.

### **WOLF-LIVESTOCK ACTIVITIES:**

7/30: A yearling wolf was taken on a SOS permit in the Tobacco Root Mountains.

8/4: WS removed 2 adults in the Tobacco Root Mountains ending the control action. WS also fitted a pup with a padded radio collar. On 8/5 WS got a call on an injured yearling in the Tobacco Root Mountains but it could not be found until 8/8. It was confirmed caused by wolves. This was in the time frame of the other losses so no further control actions were authorized.

8/5: WS confirmed a calf as being killed by wolves in the north end of the Gravelly Mountains. On 8/8 WS called another calf as a probable wolf kill. Wolf activity is unknown at this time in this area so there is an effort to collar one wolf.

8/8: WS confirmed a calf as being injured by wolves in the Upper Ruby that later had to be euthanized. WS has been authorized to remove the remaining wolves in the Poison Pack.

8/12: WS confirmed that wolves killed 1 lamb and found another probable wolf killed lamb on private property east of Galen in the Dry Cottonwood area. A guard dog is also missing and is presumed dead. Five wolves were seen by the herder in the sheep and WS heard a collared wolf nearby that belongs to a pack of 8 that normally hangs around the Mt Haggin area. FWP authorized WS to remove 3 wolves.

**OUTREACH AND EDUCATION:** Nothing to report.

**RESEARCH ACTIVITIES:** Nothing to report.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT AND RELATED ACTIVITIES:** Nothing to report.

**OTHER UPDATES:**

The Alliance for the Wild Rockies, Center for Biological Diversity, Cascadia Wildlands, and Western Watersheds Project, have filed a notice of appeal to the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit of Judge Molloy's decision upholding the constitutionality of the Congressional rider delisting the Northern Rocky Mountains grey wolf DPS, except in Wyoming.

To learn more about Montana's wolf population, the Montana program and to help FWP monitor wolves by reporting wolf sign, visit FWP online. Use the following shortcut link and be sure to update your bookmarks: <http://fwp.mt.gov/wolf>

To anonymously report a dead or injured wolf or suspected illegal activity, call: 1-800-TIP-MONT or 1-800-847-6668.

To request an investigation of injured or dead livestock, call USDA Wildlife Services directly in western Montana / Helena area at 406-458-0106 or in eastern Montana at the statewide office at 406-657-6464. Or, call your nearest FWP representative to have your call referred to Wildlife Services.

If you have a confirmed or probable livestock death loss due to wolves, USDA Wildlife Services will supply you with a copy of the Loss Reimbursement Application form. For more information, see <http://liv.mt.gov/liv/LM/index.asp> Or, contact the Livestock Loss Reduction and Mitigation Program Coordinator, George Edwards at the Montana Department of Livestock at 406-444-5609.